

Now, as to the *treatment* of varicocele, I am decidedly of the opinion that any or all of the palliative measures usually recommended should have a faithful trial, namely, cold bathing, the suspensory bandage, the truss, Wormald's silver ring, marriage, &c., but if these fail to remove the trouble, and the symptoms continue after a year or two, I do not hesitate to perform one or other of the following operations:—

The first is the least formidable of the two, and requires only an ordinary amount of skill for its performance. It is, in fact, Ricord's operation, with one or two trifling modifications. This operation, as you are aware, consists in the introduction, in opposite directions, of two loops of wire—one between the vas deferens and the veins, and the other between the veins and scrotum—the free ends being passed through the loops, so that when drawn taut, the latter completely encircle the veins and constrict them. The books recommend us to keep up the pressure on the veins by tightening the wires from day to day over a piece of cardboard or a pledget of lint. This, however, will be found to annoy the patient, and from frequent twisting the wire will sometimes break. I prefer, therefore, to attach a piece of rubber tubing to the wires on either side and pass this round the body. In this way the pressure on the veins is made more equable and constant, and the parts need not be disturbed for days together. In one or two of my earlier cases I experienced great difficulty in removing the wires after the lapse of ten or twelve days, and on one occasion was obliged to break the wire in order to extract it. Of late, however, I have practiced a little device which completely obviates the difficulty mentioned. This consists in attaching to the loop of each wire a short loop of the same material, by pulling on which at any time the main wires can be separated. I was surprised to find, in looking up the literature of varicocele the other day, that Mr. Tufnell of Dublin suggested this slight, but not unimportant, modification of Ricord's operation over twenty years ago, although I have not seen it referred to in any work on systematic surgery. An anæsthetic is seldom required for this operation, although, in the case of a delicate, nervous person, it may be well to give ether, the scro-